



Conserve O Gram

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Chronology of Photographic Processes

Reproduced on page 3 is a chart which illustrates the approximate dates of use in the United States of some 35 different photographic processes. The date range is from 1840 to 1980. This chart was taken from the book *Administration of Photographic Collections* by Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, Gerald J. Munoff, and Margery S. Long (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1984; Basic Manual Series); ISBN 0-931828-61-9. Every park with a substantial photo collection should have this book in its library.

This chart is provided as an aid to the identification and dating of photographic materials in park collections. By itself, the chart is of value only if its user is sure of the process used to create the particular image being dated. With the chart, it may be possible to date an image only within a decade, but that may be more precise than otherwise could be determined. As the authors state (page 27), "At the very least, identifying the process establishes the earliest date at which the image could have been taken." Users should be aware that the chart shows the dates that each of the processes was commercially viable. Most of the processes still are being used experimentally or on a very limited basis by professional and amateur photographers. Consequently, it is possible to find a daguerrotype, for example, made in the past few years.

This chart is of value primarily as an aid to dating photographs. It is of limited value in determining what photographic process was used to produce a particular image. However, if it is known when an image was produced, the chart also can help determine which processes might have been used to produce it. For more information on identifying photographic processes,

consult the book from which the chart was taken as well as any of the following references.

References

- Canadian Conservation Institute. *Notes*. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada: Canadian Conservation Institute.
- 16/1 Care of Encased Photographic Images
16/2 Care of Black-and-White Photographic Glass Plate Negatives
16/3 Care of Black-and-White Photographic Negatives on Film
16/4 Care of Black-and-White Photographic Prints
16/5 Care of Colour Photographic Materials
16/6 Processing Contemporary Black-and-White Photographic Films and Papers
- Coe, Brian and Haworth-Booth, Mark. *A Guide to Early Photographic Processes*. London: The Victoria and Albert Museum, 1984. ISBN 0-90509-40-0.
- Crawford, William. *The Keepers of Light; A History and Working Guide to Early Photographic Processes*. Dobbs Ferry, NY: Morgan & Morgan, 1979. ISBN 0-87100-158-6.
- Gill, Arthur T. *Photographic Processes: A Glossary and Chart for their Recognition*. London: The Museums Association, 1978. Information Sheet No. 21.
- Reilly, James M. *Care and Identification of 19th-Century Photographic Prints*. Rochester, NY: Eastman Kodak Co., 1986. Kodak Publication No. G-2S. \$24.95. ISBN 0-87985-365-4. Contains a particularly useful identification

chapter and a removable flow chart with photomicrographs illustrating the various processes. An excellent choice for park libraries.

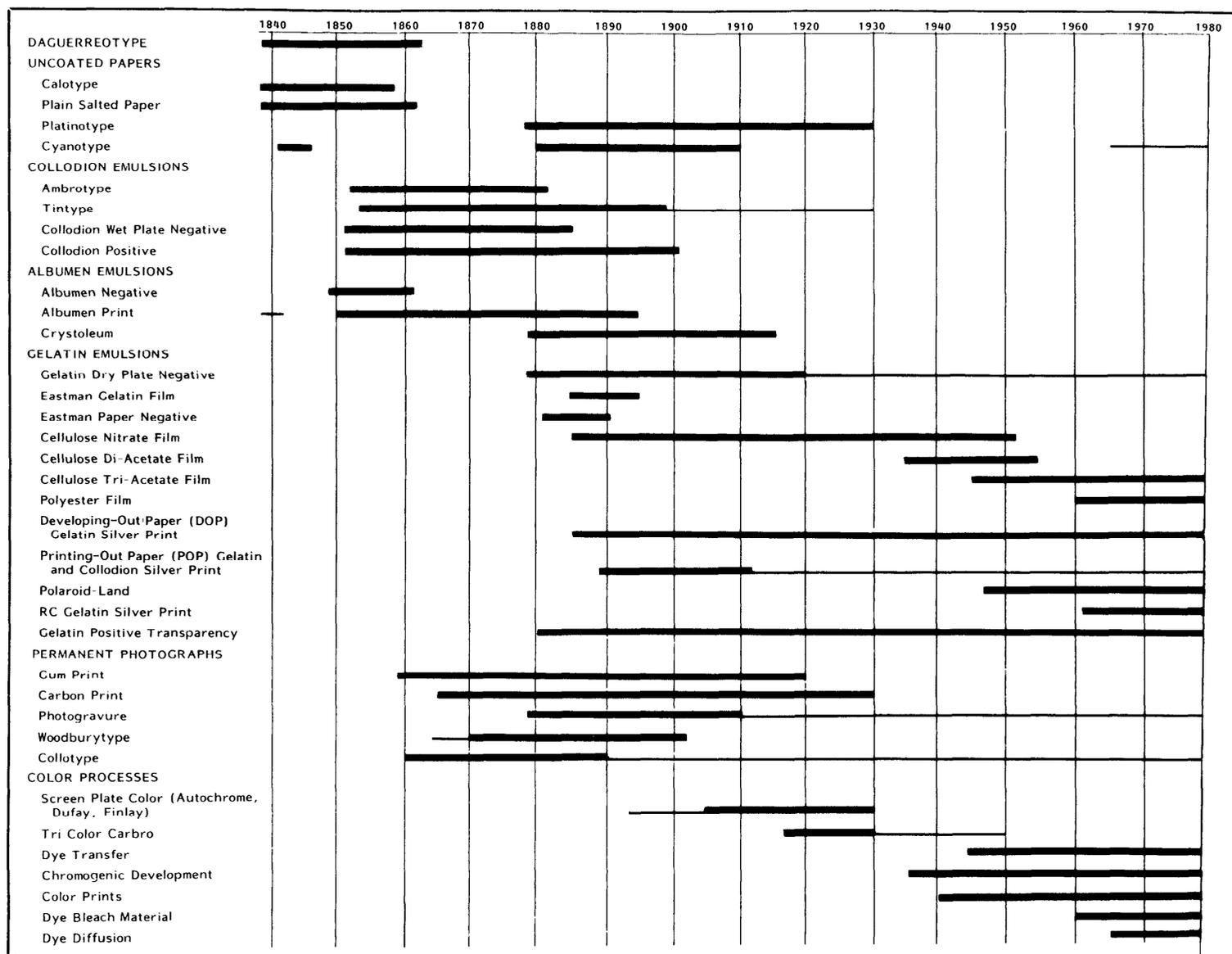
Welling, William. *Collector's Guide to Nineteenth-Century Photographs*. New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1976. ISBN 0-02-625820-8. This is a very useful history and includes references to major photographic collections and photographic societies.

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Chronology of use of photographic processes. The dates represent approximate dates of use in the United States rather than invention or discovery. Dates are approximate and will vary by geographical area and photographer. The thickness of line indicates relative use. Processes listed are those most commonly found in repositories, with the exception of calotypes, crystoleums, and some of the color processes. Copyright 1984, reproduced with permission from the Society of American Archivists.